

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IGA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01
ACDA-12 OES-07 IO-14 /091 W
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O R 121200Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2932
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO USCINCEUR
CSA WASHDC
CSAF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC

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ODC SENDS. USCINCEUR FOR ECJ4/7-SA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MILI
SUBJECT: PREPARATION OF CONGRESSIONAL PREPARATION
DOCUMENT (CPD) FOR FY 1979 SECURITY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM

REF: (A) SECSTATE 290763 DTG 062127Z DEC 77

1. JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM:

A. FRANCE REMAINS A KEY, IF UNEASY, ELEMENT IN THE
COMPLEX AND CHANGING PATTERN OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS,
INCLUDING EAST-WEST COMPETITION FOR INFLUENCE AMONG
THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES. MOREOVER, FRANCE HAS HISTORI-
CALLY BEEN ONE OF THE STAUNCHEST WESTERN SUPPORTERS
OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY OUTSIDE OF EUROPE.

B. ALTHOUGH RECENT AND CURRENT U.S. SECURITY
ASSISTANCE TO FRANCE HAS BEEN MINIMAL IN DOLLAR TERMS,
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ON BALANCE IT MAY WELL HAVE RETURNED MORE POLITICO-
MILITARY DIVIDENDS THAN MONETARILY LARGER PROGRAMS
ELSEWHERE - PARTICULARLY IN EUROPE. WHILE LOW-KEY OF
POLITICAL NECESSITY, THE PRESENT SECURITY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM - INCLUDING MUTUAL WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT
AND SCIENTIFIC/TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION - IS AN
APPRECIABLE FACTOR IN FRENCH PLANNING AND IS WELCOMED

ACCORDINGLY. AT THE SAME TIME, AN IMPORTANT U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY AIM IS SUPPORTED BY THE GRADUAL IMPROVEMENT OF INTEROPERABLE SYSTEMS AND FORCES WHICH OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE NOW AFFORDS, LIMITED THOUGH IT MAY BE.

C. AT A TIME WHEN ALLIED PERCEPTIONS OF U.S. DIRECTION AND POLICIES HAVE BECOME CLOUDED WITH UNCERTAINTIES AS TO THE FUTURE, THE OPEN DOORS AND THE DIALOGUES, TOGETHER WITH THE MATERIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN FRANCE, REMAINS AN ASSET IN THE PURSUIT OF OUR COMMON SECURITY INTERESTS. IT APPEARS ESSENTIAL, AT A MINIMUM, THAT WE CONTINUE THIS ASSISTANCE.

2. DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

A. FRANCE'S MAIN OBJECTIVES TOWARD AN INCREASE IN THEIR MILITARY INVENTORY LIE NOT SO MUCH IN DIRECT PURCHASES THROUGH OUR FMS PROGRAM BUT IN THE STRESS OF INTEROPERABILITY AND INTERCHANGEABILITY OF SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT OBTAINED THROUGH CODEVELOPMENT AND/OR COPRODUCTION, SUCH AS NATO HAWK OR ROLAND (FOR WHICH THE U.S. WAS THE JOINER). STRESS HAS BEEN LAID UPON OUR ADMINISTRATION'S "TWO-WAY STREET" POLICY UPON WHICH THERE SHOULD BE "TWO-WAY TRAFFIC." FRANCE POSSESSES AN INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL BASE THAT ALLOWS IT TO EQUIP ITS OWN ARMED FORCES AND MAINTAIN A STRONG POSITION AS AN EXPORTER OF ARMS. THE ITEMS AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT

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PURCHASED FROM THE U.S. ARE TO COMPLEMENT THEIR OWN ITEMS AND TO MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT OBTAINED IN PAST YEARS. A PRIME ODC RESPONSIBILITY IS THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENT TO MANAGE THE UTILIZATION AND DISPOSAL OF APPROXIMATELY \$580 MILLION WORTH OF MAP EQUIPMENT STILL USED BY FRENCH FORCES.

B. THE FMS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRESSIVE MUTUAL WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS PERSONAL CONTACT THROUGH TRAINING OF INDIVIDUALS AND UNIT CONTACTS, PROVIDES AN INTERWEAVING OF MUTUAL INTERESTS, IDEAS, AND ASSOCIATIONS, ALL OF WHICH PROVIDE A STRONG FOUNDATION TO STRENGTHEN U.S. AND ASSOCIATED ALLIANCE INTERESTS.

C. LETTERS OF OFFER FOR SUPPORT OF ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT IN HAND AND FOR SPECIFIC TRAINING ARE PROCESSED THROUGH THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND WILL PROBABLY BE SIGNED IF THE FRENCH BUDGET PERMITS AND

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THE TRAINING COSTS ARE NOT DRASTICALLY INCREASED AS
THEY HAVE BEEN RECENTLY. THESE TRAINING COST INCREASES
ENDANGER THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING OF
U.S. INTERESTS AND CULTURE BY ADDITIONAL FRENCH PERSON-
NEL.

3. FMS PURCHASES INCLUDE:

A. DEFENSE ITEMS

(1) AMMUNITION

(2) SPARE PARTS FOR AIRCRAFT, MISSILES, SHIPS,
TRAINING DEVICES, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONIC EQUIP-
MENT.

(3) PUBLICATIONS

B. TRAINING - INCLUDES OFFICERS, CIVILIANS (MOD)

AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL:

(1) PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION - SENIOR SERVICE
COLLEGES AND ADVANCED BRANCH SCHOOLS.

(2) IMPROVED HAWK

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4. ANOTHER AREA OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO U.S. INTERESTS
WHICH IS EXPANDED AND PROCESSED WITH CONJUNCTION OF THE

ALREADY ESTABLISHED SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS THE MILITARY WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT AND EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS PROGRAM. APPROXIMATELY 100 MWDEA'S ARE CURRENTLY IN EFFECT AND A NUMBER OF OTHERS ARE CURRENTLY BEING NEGOTIATED.

5. THE ODCPROGRAM PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN INCREASING U.S.-FRENCH MILITARY CONTACT AT ALL LEVELS, PARTICULARLY GIVEN LIMITED NATURE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN FRANCE FOLLOWING 1966 FRENCH WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO INTEGRATED COMMAND STRUCTURE. THIS EFFORT CAN ENHANCE THE ADMINISTRATION'S "TWO-WAY STREET" POLICY BY ASSISTING VISITING EXPERTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES THROUGH CONTINUOUS ASSOCIATION WITH KNOWN U.S.-FRENCH CONTACTS.
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